GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:887
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
Coastal Shipping Trade
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved proposes to approve bilateral coastal shipping trade with the neighbouring countries; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) Yes, Madam. Among neighbouring countries, India has signed a bilateral Coastal Shipping Agreement with Bangladesh. A Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) has also been signed on 15th November, 2015 between the two countries for operationalizing this Agreement.

(b) The important features of the Coastal Shipping Agreement between India and Bangladesh include:
(i) The movement of cargo would be through River Sea Vessel (RSV) or equivalent class vessels. This would reduce the cost of transportation of Exim cargo between the two countries.

(ii) India and Bangladesh would give same treatment to the vessels of the other country as it would give to its own domestic vessels with respect to port dues and other charges.
(iii) The Agreement only includes merchant vessels and excludes warships research vessels, fishing vessels etc.

(iv) The co-operation in Coastal Shipping between the two countries shall be based on the principles of national sovereignty, mutual benefits as per the national laws and international conventions.
*****